

9 Jan 83

Dear Mom & Dad,

I hope you have a new oil burner and are keeping warm. The weather here has been generally mild. On Friday the temp was 61° during my noontime run. This weekend has been cooler but not bad. Today we drove out to the new Gourmet Giant which recently opened in McLean. The store has many imported foods, fresh pasta & salads, a wide selection of cheeses, and a good assortment of wine. We bought some "blood" oranges from Sicily and a few other items including a California wine which we consumed this afternoon.

I enjoy the weekends without any engagements so I can spend a lot of time reading and working on the computer. I'm redoing my

budget program for about the 10th time. Currently I'm finishing up Will Durant's "Caesar & Christ" in preparation for Gibbon's "Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire" (abridged!). We might take a trip to France in early May to see some highlights of Gothic art.

There is still some chance, however, of my going on a field assignment this summer since all the slots are not yet filled. I don't have any idea of what is available but would like to go to Gaeta some time. I enjoy living here, but the field jobs have a big attraction in that one is their own boss and the work routine is not quite so regular as the 8 am to 5:30 pm I maintain here.

This week I'm planning to register for two classes at George Washington University (at CNA expense). They are

Communication Theory I and Introduction to Computer Systems. If I take 2 classes this Spring, 1 in the Summer, and 2 next Fall and Spring I will have the credits for a Masters in Computer Science. Then I must write a thesis but I may be able to get time off from work to do this. I would get satisfaction from the degree and it would open up many other employment opportunities. Besides this Vickie & I are planning to take Italian & Latin, respectively, at Georgetown every Saturday morning. So, the spring will be a busy time and I hope we get to see you also!

We're excited about seeing "Nicholas Nickleby" starting Monday night since we saw the play in London. Last Tuesday night we went to see an Opera at the Kennedy Center. We had a very good dinner in their cafe beforehand.

Love, Jim